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AG Six announces \$1 million Kansas Meth Initiative

Attorney General Steve Six announced today that Kansas will receive \$1 million to help crack down on methamphetamine manufacturing, trafficking and sales across the state. The money came from a grant through the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

"Meth ruins lives and destroys families. The Kansas Meth Initiative is a comprehensive program aimed at cracking down on the manufacturing, trafficking and sales of meth in our state through enforcement, training and education," Six said.

The initiative provides funding for two specialized drug prosecutors in the Southwest and Southeast regions of the state. It also provides funds to train law enforcement and local prosecutors to successfully build and prosecute complex drug cases.

The grant also provides funding for National Certification Training for agents with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and local law enforcement officers for safe evidence collection and increased detection of meth labs. This grant will cover training for 180 law enforcement officers and KBI staff.

"Through training, the program will expand law enforcement's ability to successfully detect and prosecute meth manufacturers and traffickers in Kansas," Six said. "This grant will benefit local law enforcement agencies by providing additional resources to fight meth related crimes in our communities."

The grant will also provide additional funding for education and crime prevention efforts. Through the existing DARE program, resources will be provided to young people to illustrate the dangers of methamphetamine use. It is expected that this commitment to crime prevention will result in a decrease in the number of school aged children exposed to meth.

"Through our education efforts, children will grow up knowing the very real consequences of meth use," Six said. "This initiative will also assist law enforcement in addressing the problem of children found in the dangerous environments associated with drug crimes."

The grant originated from an appropriations request by Attorney General Six to former Congresswoman Nancy Boyda in 2008. However, the final grant came as part of a more specialized program through the Community Oriented Policing subdivision of the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The grant is available until March 10, 2012.

"From training law enforcement to prosecution to conviction, this comprehensive initiative enhances our ability to hold criminals accountable and protect our families," Six said.

This grant compliments Attorney General Six's ongoing drug enforcement efforts and the Southeast and Southwest Kansas Drug Taskforces' efforts to reduce and deter drug trafficking, importation and manufacturing.

In fiscal year 2009, the Attorney General's Office successfully prosecuted 86 serious drug cases, including meth manufacturing, trafficking and sales, in coordination with the two drug taskforces.

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